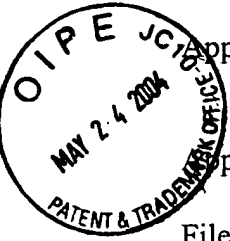


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicants: Anuj Bellare, Wolfgang Fitz, Andreas H. Gomoll, Richard D. Scott and
Thomas S. Thornhill

Application No.: 10/734,652 Group: 1714

Filed: December 12, 2003 Examiner: Unknown

Confirmation No.: 8950

For: NANOCOMPOSITE SURGICAL MATERIALS AND METHOD OF
PRODUCING THEM

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Missing Parts
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Sir:

Please amend the application as follows: